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EAST TIMOR
CNRM
TIMUR LORO SAE
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF MAUBERE RESISTANCE

East Timorese Resistance
Diplomatic Front Coordinating Commission

STATEMENT ON MEETING WITH INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

On 6 October 1994 a meeting was held in New York between an East Timorese Resistance delegation, led by CNRM Special Representative Mr José Ramos Horta, and an Indonesian Government delegation, led by Foreign Minister Mr Ali Alatas. The East Timorese delegation also included Mr José Luís Guterres, Head of the External Delegation of Fretilin and Mr João Carrascalão, President of UDT. The delegation notes with appreciation the willingness of the Indonesian Foreign Minister to hold talks with representatives of the East Timorese Resistance, pursuant to point 9 of the statement issued by the United Nations Secretary General after his meeting with the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Portugal on 6 May 1994 in Geneva.

The frank and forthright discussions between the delegations proceeded in an atmosphere of cordiality. The East Timorese Resistance delegation, stressing its preparedness to discuss substantive matters which both sides might agree upon, emphasised its fundamental position regarding the international legal status of the territory of East Timor, and the inalienable right of self-determination of its people.

Despite the fact that the Indonesian delegation held diametrically opposite views on these points, the East Timorese Resistance delegation attempted, in a constructive manner, to direct the discussion towards the questions of Indonesian troop withdrawal from East Timor, release of political prisoners, and permanent presence of the United Nations in the territory through its Specialised Agencies.

The Resistance delegation noted that Indonesian military presence in East Timor is one of the main sources of tension and instability in the territory. Troop withdrawals would remove some of this tension, and would thus be generally advantageous. The Resistance delegation stressed, however, that Indonesian troop withdrawals from East Timor must be verifiable by an independent body such as the UN.

The Resistance delegation also raised the matter of the release by Indonesia of East Timorese political prisoners. It was emphasised that such a gesture would be a confidence building measure which would significantly contribute to an improvement in Indonesia's image, particularly in the case of Resistance Leader Commander Xanana Gusmao.

The Indonesian Foreign Minister alleged that Indonesian troop withdrawals from East Timor had taken place, claiming that only 6 'territorial' battalions remained. The Resistance delegation, on the basis of information to the contrary available to

it, refuted this claim, stressing the need for independent verification of troop withdrawal claims.

As had been anticipated, the Indonesian delegation proved unwilling to make concessions regarding Indonesia's claims to sovereignty over East Timor. Suggestions of UN Specialised Agencies' permanent presence in East Timor were rejected as an attempt to encroach on Indonesian sovereignty.

Similarly, no progress could be noted on the matter of the release of East Timorese political prisoners from Indonesian jails.

In spite of the fact that, as anticipated, no agreements were reached on this occasion, the East Timorese Resistance delegation believes that the meeting with the Indonesian Government delegation headed by Foreign Minister Ali Alatas represents a major step forward in the process of search for a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable settlement of the East Timor question under the auspices of the UN Secretary General.

The East Timorese Resistance reiterates its availability to continue the process of dialogue with Indonesia in the framework of the efforts of the UN Secretary General.

New York, 6 October 1994

For the East Timorese Resistance Diplomatic Front Coordinating Commission

José Ramos Horta	José Luís Guterres	João Carrascalão
Special Representative	Head of the External Delegation	President
CNRM	Fretilin	UDT